

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Analysis on the Potential Loss of Trauma Services in South Los Angeles

The Daughters of Charity Health System (DCHS) operates several hospitals in California, including St. Francis Medical Center (St. Francis) in Lynwood. The DCHS network anticipates losing more than \$150 million this year and is currently seeking the sale of its facilities and network, either in whole or in part, to an operator that the DCHS board hopes will continue to provide essential healthcare services to the community.

Among the criteria the DCHS board is considering in selecting a buyer include funding of pension plans, willingness to invest in capital improvements, financial stability for future operations, a history of successfully managing hospitals in California, and the ability to close the sale on a reasonable timeline.

St. Francis is a 384-bed acute care hospital and offers a broad range of health services, including Behavioral Health Services, Community Clinics, a Heart and Vascular Center, Industrial and Occupational Medicine, Radiation Oncology and Rehabilitation Services. It operates the largest and busiest private emergency trauma

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center in Los Angeles County (County), treating 60,000 children and adults each year.

The trauma center at St. Francis has served the community as a Level II Trauma Center since 1996. One of the requirements of this certification dictates that trauma centers meet essential criteria and rigorous standards of trauma care capability and performance. Certified trauma centers must not only provide the resources necessary to treat traumatic injury, but the entire spectrum of care. Trauma centers are also expensive to operate. Thus, St. Francis plays an essential role in the region.

While delivering quality patient care, serving Medi-Cal and other patients and achieving financial success will be significant factors in evaluating potential buyers, there is no guarantee that a new owner will possess the same commitment to ensuring DCHS's legacy of compassionate and essential healthcare services to the community, particularly trauma care, in the portions of the County that are the most critically underserved.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to undertake an analysis of the impact loss of the Level II Trauma Center at St. Francis Medical Center on the trauma and emergency medical service system as a whole and in the region currently served by the facility;
2. Direct the Emergency Medical Services Commission to hold a public hearing and to provide advice and counsel to the Board of Supervisors

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(Board) on DHS's analysis and feasibility report;

3. Direct the Director of DHS to work with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital on the feasibility of establishing trauma services at the facility; and
4. Direct the Director of DHS to report back to the Board in 120 days outlining the consequences of a potential elimination of trauma services at St. Francis Medical Center and a list of options for replacing those services.

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